



(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program to address forestry workforce development needs, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program to address forestry workforce development needs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Jobs in the Woods  
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FORESTRY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
2           the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
3           shall establish a competitive grant program to make  
4           grants to eligible entities to carry out career path-  
5           way training programs in eligible areas in accord-  
6           ance with subsection (c).

7           (2) TERM; AMOUNT.—A grant made under this  
8           section shall be—

9                   (A) for a period of not greater than 4  
10           years; and

11                   (B) made in an amount—

12                           (i) greater than or equal to \$500,000;

13                           and

14                           (ii) less than or equal to \$2,000,000.

15           (b) APPLICATIONS.—

16           (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a  
17           grant under this section, an eligible entity shall sub-  
18           mit to the Secretary an application at such time, in  
19           such manner, and containing such information as  
20           the Secretary may require, which shall include—

21                   (A) a demonstrated capacity to carry out a  
22           career pathway training program in accordance  
23           with subsection (c);

24                   (B) a demonstration of need for such pro-  
25           gram within a region;

1 (C) a projection of the extent of reach in-  
2 tended for such program;

3 (D) a plan to ensure that such program is  
4 sustainable; and

5 (E) a plan for the implementation of such  
6 program.

7 (2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this  
8 section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible  
9 entities that—

10 (A) propose to carry out activities to ad-  
11 dress the issues of an aging workforce and  
12 youth migration;

13 (B) will partner with secondary schools to  
14 engage students; and

15 (C) demonstrate the ability to assist with  
16 forestry workforce placement and hiring.

17 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives  
18 a grant under this section shall use the grant funds to  
19 carry out career pathway training programs with respect  
20 to forestry operations and forestry products industries.

21 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) CAREER PATHWAY.—The term “career  
23 pathway” has the meaning given the term in section  
24 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act  
25 (29 U.S.C. 3102).

1           (2) ELIGIBLE AREA.—The term “eligible area”  
2       means—

3           (A) a nonmetropolitan area that qualifies  
4       as a low-income community (as defined in sec-  
5       tion 45D(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of  
6       1986);

7           (B) an area that has access to or has a  
8       plan to achieve broadband service (as defined in  
9       section 601 of the Rural Electrification Act of  
10      1936 (7 U.S.C. 950bb)); and

11          (C) an area that has a population of  
12      50,000 or fewer inhabitants.

13          (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
14      ty” means a nonprofit organization, a State, an In-  
15      dian Tribe, a local government, and an institution of  
16      higher education (as defined in section 101 of the  
17      Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)).

18          (4) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-  
19      ondary school” has the meaning given the term in  
20      section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
21      cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

22          (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
23      the Secretary of Agriculture.

1       (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
3 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.